Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 22 May 2009

Message Text

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ACTION STR-04

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 IO-13 ISO-00 STRE-00 AGRE-00 CEA-01
CIAE-00 COME-00 DODE-00 EB-08 FRB-01 H-02 INR-07
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FM AMEMBASSY PARIS
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 9160
INFO ALL EC CAPITALS 0314
USMISSION EC BRUSSELS
USDEL MTN GENEVA

UNCLAS PARIS 02538

PASS STR AND AGRICULTURE FROM AGATT

E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: EAGR, FR, EC
SUBJECT: FRANCE DEBATES EC AGRICULTURAL POLICY -(REPORT FR-7007, CODE 24 AL)

1. AS PREVIOUSLY REPORTED, TAX AND POLICY MEASURES DESIGNED TO COUNTERACT EFFECTS OF 1976 DROUGHT AND AGRICULTURAL TRADE DISTORTIONS CAUSED BY MCA'S, ETC., ARE RESULTING IN INCREASING CONCERN IN FRANCE REGARDING COSTS AND BENEFITS OF CURRENT EC AGRICULTURAL POLICIES. THIS ISSUE IS BEING DEBATED THIS WEEK BY FRANCE'S ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL COUNCIL (CES), AN ADVISORY COMMITTEE FOR ALL MAJOR ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL ISSUES.

2. BASIC DOCUMENT FOR DEBATE IS DRAFT REPORT BY CES AGRICULTURAL EXPERT, ALAIN BIENAYME, ENTITLED "WORLD FOOD OUTLOOK AND EUROPEAN AGRICULTURAL POLICY". DOCUMENT NOT YET AVAILABLE TO PUBLIC BUT BASED ON CES PRESS
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RELEASES, DRAFT REPORT STATES THAT CONSIDERING GROWING WORLD NEEDS FOR FOOD AND ITS USE BY SOME COUNTRIES AS A STRATEGIC WEAPON, AGRICULTURAL POLICY OF EC SHOULD BE REVIEWED AND REORIENTED, ESPECIALLY IN VIEW OF US COMPETITION, IN ORDER FOR EUROPE TO: (A) OBTAIN EXTERNAL OUTLETS IT DESERVES, GIVEN ITS AGRICULTURAL POTENTIAL AND TO COUNTERBALANCE ITS DEPENDENCE ON EXTERNAL SOURCES

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FOR RAW MATERIALS AND ENERGY; AND (B) PLAY A MORE COMPLETE ROLE IN TRADING AND COOPERATING WITH LDC'S.

3. THIS POLICY REORIENTATION SHOULD REPORTEDLY BE BASED ON FOLLOWING THREE POINTS: (A) EUROPE SHOULD BE MORE ACTIVELY PRESENT ON WORLD MARKETS, WITH SPECIAL EMPHASIS ON GRAINS. SPECIAL CARE SHOULD BE TAKEN TO INSURE THAT STOCKS OF AGRICULTURAL COMMODITIES, WHICH ARE COSTLY, ARE PROPERLY MANAGED TO AVOID DISPOSAL AT DISTRESSED PRICES; (B) EUROPE SHOULD PURSUE NEGOTIATIONS WITH POTENTIAL NEW MEMBERS IN ORDER TO BETTER ADJUST PRODUCTION OF MEDITERRANEAN-TYPE CROPS; (C) EUROPE SHOULD REVISE ITS TRADITIONAL CONCEPT OF AID IN ORDER TO IMPROVE FOOD SITUATION IN LDC'S THROUGH MORE REGULAR FLOWS OF AGRICULTURAL PRODUCTS. THE LOME AGREEMENTS MIGHT BE EXTENDED OR BROADENED FOR THAT PURPOSE.

4. REPORT CONCLUDES THAT EUROPEAN AGRICULTURE IS IN BETTER POSITION THAN IT APPEARS TO BE AND THAT SUCCESSES OF CAP WERE ONLY FIRST STEPS. NOW CAP SHOULD BE COMPLEMENTED BY COMMON POLICY FOR EXTERNAL TRADE AND COOPERATION. ANY PROGRESS IN MARKET MANAGEMENT WOULD HELP FINANCE NECESSARY PROGRAMS.

5. COMMENTS: TIMING OF CES REPORT AND DEBATE ON CAP EXCELLENT WITH REGARDS GOF EFFORTS TO GAIN PUBLIC SUPPORT FOR HOLDING 1977/78 EC AGRICULTURAL PRICE INCREASES WITHIN BARRE PLAN GUIDELINES OF 6.5 PERCENT. WE WILL REPORT ON ANY IMPORTANT DEVELOPMENTS DURING DEBATE
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AND OBTAIN COPIES OF FINAL REPORT ASAP.
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Message Attributes

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